



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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[www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)  
[www.dayinthevalley.com](http://www.dayinthevalley.com)

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, June 5, 2007  
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### CVNP Launches Junior Ranger Programs on Park Farms

**Brecksville, Ohio** - This summer Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) will present five new farm- based programs as part of the Junior Ranger summer series. The programs were developed in collaboration with four local farmers who participate in the national park's Countryside Initiative, an innovative effort to preserve the rural landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley. Through these programs, children ages 4 to 12 can explore how plants grow, what insects live on farms, how to care for farm animals, what farmers do, and what farm life was like for children in years past.

“By visiting participating farms, young people will benefit by learning where food comes from and the importance of eating local,” said Daniel Greenfield of Greenfield Berry Farm in Peninsula, a project participant. “I see the on- farm Junior Ranger programs as an opportunity to help children connect to the land in a more meaningful way.” In addition to being a farmer, Greenfield has a doctorate in education with an emphasis on environmental education. This project bridges his two major professional interests.

The Countryside Initiative preserves the rural landscape of the Cuyahoga Valley by inviting farmers to live and farm in the national park using sustainable methods. Currently six farms operate in the national park: the vision is for over 20. The farm- based Junior Ranger programs are the first major step CVNP is taking to provide public programming on Countryside Initiative properties.

The project is made possible through the generous support of Parks as Classrooms, a special funding source of the National Park Service. It enhances the diverse menu of CVNP Junior Ranger choices including family and group programs for ages 4 - 6 and 7 - 12 and CVNP's *Junior Ranger Handbook*, a self- guided activity book for sale at park visitor centers.

The cost for Junior Ranger family programs is \$8 per child and \$5 for CVNPA members. Children attending three family programs earn a CVNP Junior Ranger badge. A parent or guardian is required

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to attend with participating children at no charge. For a complete listing of Junior Ranger family programs and to check availability, visit [www.cvnpa.org](http://www.cvnpa.org). To register, call (800) 642- 3297 ext. 100. This is also the number for information about Junior Ranger group programs for daycare centers and other youth organizations.

The 2007 farm- based Junior Ranger family programs are as follows:

*Monday, June 18 or Tuesday, June 26*

**Butterfly's Breakfast**

What do butterflies eat for breakfast? What do beetles eat for lunch? Learn about the lives of insects as we explore the fields and flower garden of a local farm. For ages 4 - 6. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

*Wednesday, June 20 or Friday, August 3*

**After the Chores**

Was life all work and no play for children growing up on a farm? Not after the chores were finished! Have fun with games and activities that entertained children in times past. For ages 7 - 12. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on June 20, and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on August 3.

*Friday, July 6 or Thursday, July 12*

**Goats & Gobblers**

Ever wonder how to care for animals on a farm? Go behind the scenes with a real farmer and learn the ropes. We'll also get you going with goat games and tests of turkey trivia. For ages 7 - 12. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

*Sunday, July 22 or Thursday, August 2*

**Little Sprouts**

Some seeds are tiny and some are big, but they all have something inside waiting to grow! Come to a farm to see what vegetables look like before they are ready to eat. For ages 4 - 6. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on July 22 and 6 - 8 p.m. on August 2.

*Monday, July 30 or Wednesday, August 1*

**Down & Dirty Farming**

Think you have what it takes to be a farmer? If you're up to the challenge, come get a little dirty and sweaty. Discover what types of farming happen in the valley, then work side by side with a local farmer. All participants must wear long pants and sturdy shoes. For ages 10 - 12. 9 a.m. - noon.

CVNPA, in partnership with the National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, provides innovative education programs and fosters community awareness, support, and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit [www.cvnpa.org](http://www.cvnpa.org) or call (330) 657- 2909.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/) or [www.dayinthevalley.com](http://www.dayinthevalley.com) or call (216) 524- 1497 or (800) 445- 9667.

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